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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Marketing Economics Research Division and Cotton Division

CHARGES FOR GINNING COTTON, COSTS OF SELECTED SERVICES INCIDENT TO MARKETING, AND RELATED INFORMATION, SEASON 1959-60 1/

Methods of harvesting.--Compared with last season, the most marked shifts in methods of harvesting cotton showed up as declines in hand-picking and hand-snapping and an increase in machine-picking, which rose sharply to a new high. For the Belt as a whole, 39 percent of the 1959-60 crop was hand-picked, 18 percent hand-snapped, 31 percent machine-picked, and 12 percent machine-stripped. In the Southeastern States, the general decline in hand-picking was offset by increases in hand-snapping. Elsewhere, declines in proportions of hand-picking and hand-snapping were accompanied by more machine-picking. California again led all other States in machine-picking, with 83 percent harvested by this method. Although hand-snapping declined for the Belt as a whole as compared to last season, it increased in 8 States, 5 of which were in the Southeast. Machine-stripping, confined largely to the Plains area, remained about unchanged from last season.

Ginning charges.--The average charge for ginning and wrapping a 500-pound gross-weight bale of upland cotton in the United States during the 1959-60 season was $15.02, a 27-cent increase from the $14.75 average of 1958-59. Twelve States had increases in average charges for ginning and wrapping; however, increases in most States were under 60 cents per bale. The greatest increases-- Arizona $2.04 and Florida $2.28--were accounted for by higher rates and by less favorable turnouts, accounted for in part by shifts in harvesting methods. Beltwide charges for bagging and ties averaged $4.29 per bale this season, compared to $4.20 last season. Roller gins charged an average of $25.62 for ginning and wrapping American-Egyptian cotton this season--41 cents higher than in 1958-59.

Pounds of seed cotton required for a 500-pound gross-weight bale.--Less seed cotton was required to make a standard-weight bale this season than last, except for hand-snapped cotton. A standard-weight bale of upland cotton in 1959-60 required 1,406 pounds of hand-picked seed cotton, 1,470 pounds of machine-picked, 1,957 pounds of hand-snapped, and 2,067 pounds of machine-stripped. A 500-pound bale of American-Egyptian cotton in 1959-60 required 1,458 pounds of hand-picked cotton and 1,579 pounds of machine-picked.

Purchases as seed cotton.--The proportion of this year's crop sold to ginners as seed cotton remained the same as last year at 1 percent.

Selected services incident to marketing.--Per bale charges by public storage establishments for the 1959-60 season averaged 75 cents for receiving, 50 cents per month for insured storage, and $1.39 and $1.66, respectively, for standard-density and high-density compression. Charges for storage and high-density compression were about unchanged from last season, but charges declined 6 cents for receiving and 4 cents for standard-density compression.

1/ Primary data were collected by field representatives of the Cotton Division and were tabulated in the Marketing Economics Research Division. The report was made possible by the Beltwide cooperation of ginners, compressmen, and warehousemen.

(See reverse side of this sheet for more detailed figures by States.)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C., May 1960

Average charges for ginning upland cotton, average charges for selected services incident to marketing, and related information, by States, season 1959-60

Item		U. S.	Ala.	Ariz.	Ark.	Calif.	Fla.	Ga.	La.	Miss.	Mo.	N. Mex.	N. C.	Okla.	S. C.	Tenn.	Tex.	Va.
BALES GINNED * (running bales)	thousands	14,422	714	689	1,534	1,947	9	521	487	1,552	514	295	336	379	421	642	4,371	11
CHARGES FOR GINNING AND WRAPPING UPLAND COTTON:																		
Total charge per 500-pound gross-weight bale 1/	dollars	15.02	11.43	16.88	15.71	15.91	13.94	11.23	15.08	13.73	17.81	14.01	12.51	15.52	11.73	13.96	15.94	9.15
Charge per bale for bagging and ties when assessed separately	dollars	4.29	3.37	2/	4.18	--	3.50	3.58	4.49	4.56	4.81	4.05	3.63	3.99	3.56	4.75	4.34	2/
METHOD OF HARVESTING:																		
Handpicked	percent	39	76	29	57	16	56	80	45	62	44	44	86	2	92	76	14	100
Hand-snapped	percent	18	18	9	7	1	26	16	5	3/	9	6	9	45	7	16	42	--
Machine-picked	percent	31	6	62	36	83	18	4	50	38	47	45	5	5	1	8	10	--
Machine-stripped	percent	12	--	3/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	48	--	--	34	--
WEIGHT OF SEED COTTON PER 500-POUND BALE:																		
Handpicked	pounds	1,406	4/	1,525	1,425	1,348	4/	4/	4/	1,377	1,400	1,366	4/	1,379	4/	1,390	1,435	2/
Hand-snapped	pounds	1,957	4/	2,565	1,953	2,624	4/	4/	4/	2/	2,144	1,997	4/	1,947	4/	1,892	1,932	--
Machine-picked	pounds	1,470	4/	1,522	1,469	1,451	4/	4/	4/	1,448	1,491	1,442	4/	1,508	4/	1,446	1,515	--
Machine-stripped	pounds	2,067	--	5/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,127	--	1,966	--	--	2,078	--
PROPORTIONS OF PRODUCTION PURCHASED FROM GROWERS BY GINNERS AS SEED COTTON	percent	1	3/	--	3/	--	2	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	9	3/	3/	3	3/	66
CHARGES FOR WAREHOUSING AND RELATED SERVICES:																		
Charge per bale for receiving cotton at public cotton storage establishments	cents	.75	.71	1.00	.67	.96	2/	.73	.73	.66	.65	.86	.51	.66	.65	.69	.75	2/
Charge per bale per month for insured storage	cents	.50	.54	.51	.50	6/	2/	.54	.51	.49	.50	.49	.50	.49	.53	.51	.48	2/
Charge per bale for compressing cotton to--																		
Standard density	dollars	1.39	1.29	1.60	1.01	1.68	2/	1.29	1.28	1.09	1.00	1.75	2/	1.63	1.30	1.00	1.62	--
High density	dollars	1.66	1.50	1.80	1.40	1.85	2/	1.47	1.44	1.42	1.40	1.85	2/	1.63	1.46	1.40	1.63	--

1/ Includes charges for drying seed cotton or for use of lint cleaners. However, separate charges for such services have been disappearing rapidly in the past few seasons and were insignificant in the 1959-60 season.
2/ Insufficient data.
3/ Less than 0.5 percent.
4/ Seed cotton customarily not weighed.
5/ Insignificant proportion of cotton harvested by this method.
6/ In California, where charge does not include insurance, storage averaged 45 cents per bale per month.

* Based on ginnings reported by U. S. Bureau of the Census, March 21, 1960. United States total includes minor cotton-producing States not shown individually.